



GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

PROCLAMATION

California is home to nearly five million individuals over the age of 60 who comprise the fastest growing segment of our population. We honor these older residents and acknowledge their immeasurable contributions that have made California the golden state that it is today.

May is national Older Americans Month, and this year's theme, "Celebrate Long-Term Living!" recognizes senior citizens who are living longer, healthier and more fruitful lives. The theme also highlights the impact that longevity will have on nearly every aspect of society. By 2030, people over the age of 65 will represent 23 percent of California's population, and by 2040, those 85 and older will reflect nearly half of the state's elderly.

As they age, we must help our seniors remain independent in their own homes and communities. California's Olmstead Plan provides services to people with disabilities, including the elderly, in the most integrated setting possible, enabling them to remain in their neighborhoods and avoid unnecessary institutionalization.

Through their knowledge and experience, older Californians offer a unique perspective of the past and wisdom for what the future may hold. We pay tribute to these valued citizens with appreciation and admiration, and we recognize the importance of helping them live with dignity and self-determination.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim May 2005 and "Older Californians Month."

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have here unto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 4th day of May 2005.

Arnold Schwarzenegger
GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA

Attest:

Bruce McPherson
SECRETARY OF STATE

